

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 April 1967

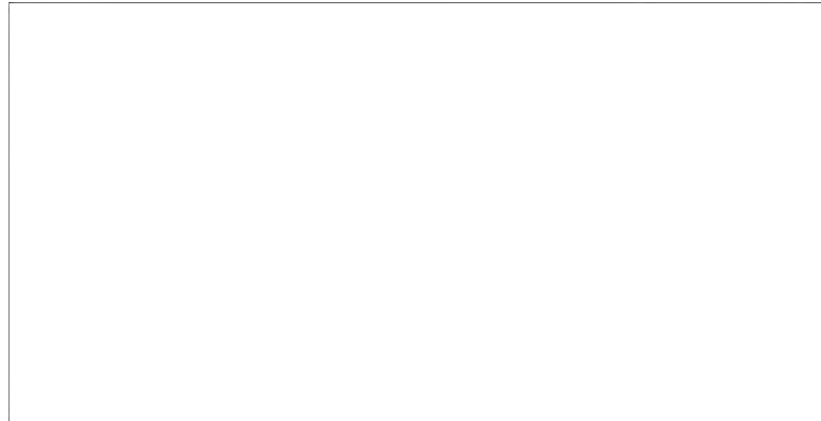


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DAILY BRIEF
17 APRIL 1967

1. North Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

Yesterday was the third and final Sunday of voting for village and hamlet officials. Early reports suggest that Viet Cong harassment was somewhat greater this time. Three lightly defended villages northeast of Saigon were attacked just before the polls were to open and several Revolutionary Development workers were executed.

3. Ghana

Early this morning a group of young officers moved against the generals who threw out Nkrumah in February 1966. While the picture is still murky, there are no indications that the coup leaders intend to bring Nkrumah back from exile in Guinea or shift Ghana's generally pro-Western orientation.

General Ankrah, who headed the government until this morning, has asked for asylum in Ambassador Williams' residence. The ambassador reports no sign that Americans are in danger.

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4. India

New Delhi is most unhappy with our decision to resume sale of spare parts for lethal items of military hardware. The Indians are afraid Pakistan will come out ahead in this deal. For their part, the Pakistanis have mixed feelings. They are not at all pleased about the end of military aid, but they do want the spare parts--particularly for their F-104s.

5. Guatemala

Communist terrorists are threatening to assassinate US Embassy personnel in retaliation for recent government successes against the guerrillas. Both the embassy and Guatemalan security officials are aware of these plans and have taken precautionary steps.

6. South Korea

South Korean jets sank a North Korean ship in the Yellow Sea this morning. Seoul has announced the North Korean ship was engaged in espionage operations. This incident will further raise the tensions that have built up as a result of recent North Korean forays across the Demilitarized Zone.

7. East Germany

Not much of real substance is expected from the Communist Party congress opening today in East Berlin. However, it will be interesting to see how the Communists handle the hot potato Chancellor Kiesinger pitched into their laps last Wednesday when he publicly called for improved relations between the two Germanies. Party boss Ulbricht probably will try to appear responsive to Kiesinger but such a gesture will not come easily to him.

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